Start of Max Cahn Family Collection

AR 11715

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AR 11715 1/1 Max Cahn Family Collection, 1992

Lars Menk - Gleditschstr. 40 - W-1000 Berlin 30 - Germany

Berlin, March 28, 1992

Dear Mr. Cahn :

- For many years I've been studying my ancestors' history, which subject is generally called genealogy. During these studies I now and then came across difficulties of finding a link between the generations. One of these problems had to do with one female ancestor named Julie Jülich, whose birth certificate I was not able to find. In her death certificate she was said to be born in Godesberg around 1830 the daughter of the "Jülich'schen Eheleute", further details unknown. In fact there was no girl born with such or a similar name from 1825 to 1840 - she must have been born before at least 1840, because her presumably first child was born in 1855. Even similar first names with another family name could not be found during this time. There remained the possibilities, that either she was born somewhere else but moved early to Godesberg, so that in her memory she came from there, or she was born under another name, as an illegitimate child perhaps! - possibly a combination of both. So I looked for marriages of men with the name of "Jülich" after 1828 to 1840 and then, where their wives came from, after that for all female children with the wives' maiden names in their former residences.

- So I found Carolina Cahn, unmarried, a servant in Endenich (now to Bonn) in 1832, who gave birth to a child "Gudula" on May 24, 1832, and married later that year, Dec. 13, 1832, the butcher Jonas (bar Shmuel ha-Levi) Jülich from Godesberg, born there in Aug 02, 1790. In the dialect of Bonn "Gudula" is pronounced "Judula", for which the pet name is "Julchen" - and so was my ancestor's. - Another relevant circumstance is that Jonas Jülich's son Samuel moved to Ruhrort (now to Duisburg) in the early 1850's, and there Julie Jülich lived as the wife of Heinrich Wilhelm Büchner, grandparents of my paternal great-grandmother.

- Carolina Cahn was born on May 12, 1801, in Bonn under the name of "Keilchen Chan" - in 1808 her father changed her name under the Napoleonic law for the adoption of unchangeable hereditary family names. She died in Godesberg on Oct. 11, 1854. Her parents were:
Abraham Chan: (sometimes also written "Cahn"), born on Oct. 26, 1774 in Bornheim, died on Oct. 01, 1865 in Bonn - most of his life very poor, he worked as a butcher, a resale dealer, a peddler, then as a day labourer, and finally he lived from the charity. He lived in the "Judengasse" in Bonn after a while in the "'Kaule", the slums of Bonn.

His wife, Jachet Calmen, the daughter of the daylabourer and peddler Callmann Lazarus and his wife Vogel Beermann, was born in Vilich-Rheindorf (on the right side of the Rhine; now to Bonn-Beuel) in 1779 and died in 1810 in Bonn.

- Abraham Cahn's parents were: the butcher and (cattle) dealer Joseph Cahn in Bornheim, born there around 1726/27, died there on Oct. 13, 1808; married with Keilchen Brendel / Carolina Levi, died before 1799, when Joseph Cahn was mentioned as a widower. Joseph had at least three children, Gudgen / Gudula / Judith (born around 1756/57), Zerle / Sara (born around 1766/67), and Abraham (born 1774), all in Bornheim.

- Joseph Cahn's parents were: Leyser Kaan / Lazarus Heymann, mentioned only once in an official document in 1736 as living in Bornheim, was married with Edel / Adelheid, and had the following children: Abraham / Abel (born around 1717/18), Heymann (born around 1717/18; in 1808 he took the name Joseph Katz – information about this family if required), Joseph (born around 1726/27) and Geysel / Feissel (born around 1727/28), all born in Bornheim. (About Joseph and Geysel vide infra). It is possible, that he also had a daughter, Rose Leyser, who married around 1740/45 Hirtz Levi from Godesberg, father of Samuel Jülich and grandfather of Jonas Jülich, the husband of Carolina Cahn: in 1733 Hirtz Levi and Isac Heyman, brother of Lazarus Heyman, stood up for the settlement of another Jew in Friesdorf (now to Bonn), so at least they might have had business relations.

- The father of Leyser Kaan was Heyman or "Chajim" [ח"ם] which was his religious name. He was mentioned the first time in 1682 in Bornheim, together with three other Jews, Abraham, Meyer, and – here comes the problem with the distinction – Haim. In 1691 we find Heyman, Meyer and, again, Haim as three different persons. In 1695 Haim was alleged to have illegally distilled spirits – was it really Haim or Heyman? – Heyman must have died before around 1717/18, when his grandson Heyman was named after him. – He had at least two sons, Isac / Izman (who died according to the "Memorbook" of Bornheim in 1743 as "Itzchak Jossef b. Chajim"), and Leyser / Lazarus.

- Before I begin to follow the descendants of Leyser Kaan, let me try to find a circumstantial evidence, that Joseph Cahn and Geysel Cahn are one and the same person.

- In the population registers of Bornheim we read what follows: In 1800 there lived in the house of Leib Coppel and his wife, Zerla Cahn, on the Königsstraße, house Nr. 101, Joseph Kaan, 74 years, widower, born in Bornheim, and Apel Kaan, 84 years, brother, born in Bornheim. (By the way: like the majority of Jewish households at that time this house was in the part of Bornheim named Uedorf, between the Mühlenstraße and the Kallenberg-Straße of today, on the Königsstraße). – Two years before we find in the same sequence: Leib Koppel, Ceile Kaan, Geijsel Kaan (70 years, dealer), Abeler Kaan (81 years, dealer). – In 1801 we find in this household one Joseph Charers (?) and one Apel Can. – The age of the persons shouldn't irritate you, at that time the exact age was not important. – In the vital statistics we find: in 1800 "Geijsel Kaan" 72 years (Signature: [illegible] => "Jisl or Jeisl Kan"); in 1801, when Abraham Cahn, 86 years, unmarried, had died, Jeisel Cahn, brother, cattle dealer; in 1804 Joseph Kan, dealer (German Signature: Something like "Janiall Cahn", probably misspelled for "Jessell" [?]); in the list of the debts of the Jews living in Bornheim before 1794, drawn up in 1806 Joseph Cahn is mentioned but no Geysel Cahn, although Geysel was still alive on April 9, 1807, when his son Wolff Cahn married the second time. There's no death certificate to be found for Geysel Cahn, although I tried a lot of possible name combinations, another order, another spelling, as Geysel Leyser/Lasarus until 1832 (when he would have been over a hundred years old). (I tried these combinations because I found your both grandfathers grandfather, the same Wolff Cahn, under the name of "Isaac Wolff Cahn", died in 1835!). – As noticed above, Joseph Cahn died in Oct. 13, 1808 in Bornheim. And according to Leopold Zunz, "Die Namen der Juden", there is the pet name "Jesel" for "Joseph". (By the way: there was a family in Duisdorf [Bonn-] who took the family name "Geisler" from their ancestor "Geissel"). – There might be one objection against this theory: when Wolff Cahn married in 1807 he called his parents as Geißel Cahn, present, and Rösgen Wolff, dead. Was Rösgen Wolff another name for Keilchen Levi, or was she another wife, or were Joseph and Geißel after all not the same?

- After studying the ascendants of the Cahn family before 1800 I tried to find descendants, who had survived the Shoah. Around 1929 the following families in Bornheim were descendants or related (before 1875: after that date I had no insight into the registers and documents): all the Cahn's; Koppel (Joseph Koppel from Brühl married around 1830 Catharina, daughter of Leib Coppel and Zerla Cahn, the daughter of Joseph Cahn); Schmitz (Joseph Schmitz from Meckenheim married in 1834 Köllgen, daughter of Wolff Cahn); Salm in Roisdorf (Jacob Salm from Sechtem m. in 1852 Gudula Levy, grand-daughter of Gudgen, the daughter of Joseph Cahn). Leuchbach (Jacob Leuchbach from Weisweiler m. in 1862 Mina Meyer, daughter of Köllgen Meyer (née Coppel), daughter of Leib and Zerla (Cahn) Coppel). Israel (Meyer Israel from Alfter m. in 1870 Emilie, the sister of Mina Meyer).

During the recherches I received the booklet "Juden in Bornheim" about the exhibition in the city hall of Bornheim in 1989 and read with great interest about you and your family, so that I contacted Mrs. Heimig of the municipal archivos. After I had talked to her about my intensive studies, she was convinced, that my aims were true, and so after a while she gave me your address. She also told me, that both of your parents were born Cahn's from Bornheim, and that your paternal grandfather was Joseph Cahn, your maternal grandfather Moses Cahn.

- <u>Joseph Cahn</u> was born on April [14] 26, 1839 in Bornheim and died there in [5.4.] 1897. The Hebrew Epitaph calls him "Joseph bar Itzchak ha-Kohen". He was the son of Isak Cahn and Sibilla Wolf Schmitz. – I've found Joseph Cahn as a dealer – probably a cattle dealer – in Bornheim in 1866 (as witness together with his father on his cousine's wedding), in 1870 (as witness on a distant relative's wedding), in 1871 (as witness with his uncle Seligmann Cahn for the death certificate of his aunt Carolina Cahn, wife of Joseph Schmitz).

- <u>Moses Cahn</u> was born on July 12, 1855 [5.4.21] in Bornheim as son of Isak Cahn and Sibilla Wolf Schmitz – he was Joseph Cahn's youngest brother, like Joseph was the oldest child. He died in Bornheim in 1921, his wife – your grandmother – Sibilla Cahn (née Sahn) followed him in 1928. Here comes my first question: in a directory of 1928/29 it is written that the widow of Moses Cahn lived on the Königstr. 16, together with the merchant <u>Eduard Cahn</u> (was he your uncle?). Your family moved in 1929 from Lechenich to Bornheim, into the house of your maternal grandparents. In the booklet the address is called "Servatiusweg" – is this the same house? Already in 1907 the family of Moses Cahn was living in the Königstr. 16 – since when? Your mother had another brother, <u>Siegfried Cahn</u>, born in Bornheim in [1.8.] 1887, who lived in the 1930's as a merchant in Kripp near Remagen and could escape in 1939 to Switzerland, where he died after the war. Do you know, whether he had descendants?

- <u>Isak Cahn</u> was born in Bornheim on Aug. 10, 1811 as son of Wolf Cahn and Sara Isack, he died in Bornheim in 1882 ["Itzchak bar Benjamin ha-Kohen"]. He was a dealer in Bornheim, probably a cattle dealer. In 1838, June 06, he married Sibilla, daughter of Hieronimus Schmitz, died, dealer in Meckenheim, and Josephine Schwartz, alive, in Meckenheim, without profession. She was 30 years old and born in Meckenheim.

In the registry office they gave their names as Isak Wolff and Pauline Schmitz, which shows, that even after almost 30 years of fixed family names some persons had their problems with it, like Isak who called himself - and signed in german! - with his traditional name. Pauline and also Sibilla, might be the forms to translate the original Jewish given name, possibly "Beila". Later, when Isak went to the office to announce a child's birth he called his wife only "Sibilla Wolf" and not "Schmitz"!
In 1862 Isak payed much less taxes than his brother Seligmann Cahn, his income taxes were about a fifth of Seligmann's, whose real estate was more than 3 times larger than Isak's. So I think, that Isak was rather poor at that time. -
Their children: Joseph (1835-1897); Benjamin (named after his grandfather, Wolff Cahn; born and died in 1841); Philipp (1842-43); Levy (1844); Jacob (1847 - 1920; the father of: Isidor Cahn, born in 1883, called by the people from Bornheim "Cahn's Isi" or the "Piepen=Mezze", because he sold tobacco besides his butchery. Isidor, named after his grandfather Isak, was a cousin to your parents. He lived on the Königstr. 45, in his father's house. - By the way, the house numbers are those of the time before 1930. So the house of Isidor Cahn is now on the Königstr. 79.); Jeanette (b./d. 1849); Abraham (1850); Moses (1855 - 1921)

- Isak was the son of: Wolff (= "Benjamin hakohen") Cahn, born in Bornheim on March 02, 1760, as son of Geysel Cahn and Rösgen Wolff (after her father he was probably named), and died there on June 08, 1839. He worked in Bornheim as a cattle driver, a cattle dealer and a butcher. In 1800 he lived in Bornheim - Hodorf, Königsstraße, Haus Nr. 117. He was married the first time with Hille Heymann or Seligmann, daughter of Heymann Seligmann and Eva Hendel, born around 1758/59 in Mendig (near Mayen/Koblenz), died in Bornheim Nov. 01, 1806 (In the population lists of 1800 and 1801 Wolff's wife is named as Eva Jacob, born around 1763/64, since 1796 in Bornheim; Hille Heymann was the mother of his sons Seligmann [1802] and Leyser [1805]: Was Eva Jacob another woman he was married before Hille Heymann, or was she the same?). Two sons from her: Seligmann, born Jan. 19, 1802, died 1884; Leyser, born Jan. 20, 1805, died Febr. 10, 1808 - the first named after the maternal, the second after the paternal grandfather, against the tradition?! - Wolff Cahn married the second time in Waldorf on Apr. 09, 1807: Sara Isack, daughter of David Isack and Rösgen Joseph, born in Wißkirchen (near Euskirchen) on May 06, 1770, died in Bornheim on March 03, 1839. Two children from her: Köllgen/Keilchen (after 1808: Carolina), born March 04, 1808, died after 1866/probably after 1875; Isak, born Aug. 10, 1811 (vide supra). - All children born in Bornheim. -
One problem: Why has Wolff not named his son Isak after his father Geysel, if Geysel - what I assume - was identical with Joseph Cahn and had died in 1808? Another point against my theory?

- About Wolff's father Geysel Cahn we've talked above. To summarize it: He was born in Bornheim around 1727/28, as son of Leyser / Lazarus Heyman / Kaan and his wife Edel / Adelheid (as mentioned above), and has died after his son Wolff's second marriage in 1807, April 05. He was married with Rösgen Wolff, who died before 1807 – after her father Wolff Cahn must have had his given name. – Geysel Cahn was a dealer in Bornheim.

- One addendum to Leyser Cahn: None of his grandsons was named: Leyser – Wolff son of Geysel, born 1760; Abraham son of Heyman, born 1771; Abraham son of Joseph, born 1774. Is it possible, that Leyser Cahn had died only after 1774? He must have been born around 1690, so then he were over 80 years old.

- One note to the family name: Wolff Cahn signed in 1800 with: וואלף כץ [= Wolf Katz]; Abraham Chan signed in 1800 with: אברהם כץ [= Abraham Katz]; Abraham son of Heyman Cahn signed in 1804 with: אברהם צבי בן כהר״ר חיים כץ [= Abraham Zwi Sohn des verehrten Herrn Chajim Katz], he took in 1808 the family name Katz (not in Bornheim, but in Neurath near Grevenbroich). Only Geysel Cahn signed in 1800 with: קאן [= Kan], which is only the literal transcription of his name. So I believe that "Katz" was the traditional name: the abbreviation for כהן צדק [= "Kohen Zadok" = righteous priest].

- A few questions I have before I close this letter: Is there any family tradition in the Cahn family? For example a story about the local origin of the family? Can you tell me something about your ancestors beyond the dates I've collected? Do you know, whether there are any surviving persons from Bornheim except your family? Do you know, who was the last "parness" of the "K'hille" in Bornheim? What could have happened to the "Memorbuch" of Bornheim, reported as still existing, by Rabbi Dr. Adolph Kober, in 1937?

- I hope you can decipher my handwriting, and that I have not written so much, that it might confuse you. Write me, if you want to know more details about something, if you don't understand something. Tell me, whether you're interested in copies of old certificates, I've collected a few of the time before 1830.

- Thank you very much in advance for your endeavours with answering my questions!

Yours sincerely, and greetings to your family!

P.S.: Please, tell me about your family, if you want to!

[signature]

Berlin, May 31, '92

Dear Mr. Cahn:

Thank you very much for your letter, or – as the old folks used to say:

יך זאג אייך שכוח [יישר כוח]!

Now, to answer your last questions first, I start with me: Born in Dec. 1961 in Bremen, Germany, I'm only 30 now. So I could almost belong to the generation of your grandchildren. My father was born in 1937 in Duisburg, his family's ancestors came from the Rhineland, Belgium and the Netherlands; my mother was born in 1938 in Hannover, her ancestors came from Lower Saxony, Poland and Eastern Prussia (Masuren). My father is a captain with the HAPAG Lloyd shipping company. – I went to Berlin in 1984 to escape the German military service, which was possible then because of Berlin's special status. – I'm not married and have no children. – I'm studying social and economic communication and earn my living by jobbing as a guard with the Federal Insurance Office.

I'm no בר ישראל, for both my parents were/are גוים, that is: not Jewish. So I might call myself simply בן אדם, just a human being. – Since 1982 I'm into genealogy, concentrating the first years on the general family history – just my direct ancestry line. For a few years I've been more and more interested in my non-German ancestors and the relation to social fringe groups. My ancestors on the MENK side were herdsmen for hundreds of years in the Hunsrück mountains, they belonged to the poor and had to move from one village to another to find some work. They lived on the lowest level of the society. When my great-great-great-grandfather married in 1856, a Jewish cattle-dealer named Isak Kann was one of the witnesses. In the same village lived a family Haas, whose ancestor was one "Menke"; in another village not far lived a Jew "Möncken", also in the early 18th century; and a Jew in a nearby village named "Menk" in 1670. I know that my family "Menk" was gentile – in the late 18th cent. they were swineherds! And I knew the origins of the Jewish "Menk/-e" – the popular German-Jewish form for מנחם.
But I became interested in the history of the Jewish population on the countryside. That was in 1989.

In late 1990 I remembered my ancestor JULIE (Julchen) JUELICH who I'd almost forgotten – I had problems to find her marriage and birth dates. In that year I came across the Jewish family JUELICH, originally from Godesberg in the 18th century. In Julie's death certificate I've found the note that she'd been born in Godesberg – the rest of the story you've read in my first letter to you.

What concerns my (possible) relationship to your family, you see on page Ⓐ of the copies. – "Copies" is the catchword. – Start with the chart of the "Ancestry of Joseph and Moses Cahn" – that will help you to understand the – indeed – complicated, confusing family relations. On this chart you find all the ancestors I've been able to research. – On copy Ⓐ: The above mentioned relationship. On the backside, page Ⓑ: your great-grandfather Isak Cahn and his children. On page Ⓒ: your great-great-grandfather Wolff Cahn and his other son, Seligmann Cahn. – On the backside, page Ⓓ: Wolff Cahn's daughter Keilchen, Seligmann Cahn's sons Isaac and Wolf. – On page Ⓔ: Abraham Chan, the possible son of your ancestor Joseph Cahn, and all known descendants. – On the backside, page Ⓕ: your ancestor Joseph Cahn's girls, Gudula and Zerla Cahn; your great-grandmother Sibilla Schmitz' ancestors.

Next you find the copy of a map of Bornheim and Waldorf from 1893, with marks for Hodorf or Hordorf, as it sometimes was called – there's yet a "Hordorfer Weg" leading out of the old Hordorf, on the right side of the "Sechtemer Weg" shortly after its origin from the "Königstraße" → for the "Gut Ort" (ב'ח ח''ט) and for the old synagogue, in use before 1866, at the "Ollichsgaß" (today: Sekundastraße: it was on the ground of the house which was inhabited by the butcher Moses Katz after 1907 and still in 1928.

After this map you find the documents which I think can be of interest for you. On their backside you see numbers with pencil, they refer to the numbers of the notes before. – If you want I can try to arrange the copies of the certificates to the mentioned dates / events for you, but this might take a little while, for I don't know when I will go to the "Personenstandsarchiv" the next time. And it will cost a little money, for

I don't have these copies myself and have to order them.

A little mystery with the "Piepenmezze"? Perhaps. When I was in Bornheim last year, a man of about 50 or 55 years told me that "Cahn's Isi" was also called the "Piepenmezze" being a butcher who also sold cigars. – maybe a confusion of two persons.

Leo Levenbach lived on "Königstr. 40", in the house of his father, Jacob Levenbach (Weisweiler 1828-1907 Bornheim); Leo's mother, Amalie Meyer, was a grand-daughter of Zerla (Sara) Cahn, daughter of Joseph Cahn (→ Ⓐ and Ⓕ) – your ancestor!

Isidor Cahn lived not far away from Leo Löwenbach, on "Königstr. 45", the house of your grandfather, Jacob Cahn.

The "Bornheimer Memorbuch" was reported by Dr. Adolf Kober in 1937 (in: "Zeitschrift für die Geschichte der Juden in Deutschland", Vol. VII, Berlin, Philo-Verlag.) as being a "Quartband in Ledereinband" [= Volume in Quarto bound in leather] with the impressed words:

זאת נדב הנעלה כמר משה בר משה חיים ברנה״יים

(there was a print error in the word for "Bornheim" – a "3" instead of the "ג", which would mean "B'nzheim" – obviously incorrect.) on it. It was started under the government of Johan Jacob von Waldbott, who was ruler of Bornheim from about 1730 to his death in 1755. The oldest entry concerned the "14. Ab 383 = 10. August 1623", but Kober doesn't tell what the entry was. – I could imagine that the "Memorbuch" might be already in possession of the Kölner Kehillah in 1937.

There's another member of the "CAHN" family from Bornheim: Philipp Cahn, born Nov. 15, 1880 in Bornheim; he was a merchant in Essen in the 1920's. Do you know, whose son he was? Possibly the son of Wolf Cahn (son of Seligmann Cahn, → Ⓓ) and Adele Baer?

Some notes on the translation of professions: in old certificates these were "Mäkler", "Händler", "Handelsmann", in the French era "Marchand", "Négociant", which I translated as "dealer". – Abbreviations: b. = born; d. = died; ∞ = married; Bh. = Bornheim; c. = circa; ? = not sure; cf. = compare with.

Enclosed in this letter you find three photo prints: One of Bornheim, shot from the direction of Widdig; the second, one of the מצבה of your great=grandfather, Isak Cahn, the third the photo of the "mazëiwe" of Zerla (Sara) Cahn (→ (F)), daughter of your ancestor, Joseph Cahn, wife of Leib (Leopold) Coppel. – All three were taken in July '91.

So, enough for now! I hope I've done my job better this time, so that you are able to understand all these confusing facts. –
I send you, your wife and your family all my best wishes!

שלום

Your [signature]
(Lars Menk)

P.S.: Can you imagine, that there are yet existing photos of your grandparents, their siblings and their cousins? I only know the photos which are now – as reproductions – in possession of the municipal archives of Bornheim.

Possible Relationship between your and my Family

- Heymann (or: Haim) ∞ N. N.
  (before 1682 in Bornheim; died before c. 1717/18 -?-)
  ⇒ Sons: 1. Isac (Itzman), died 1743 Bh. ("יצחק אייזיק בן ח״ס")
  2. Leyser (Lazarus)

↓

- Leyser Kaan (Lazarus Heymann), 1736 in Bornheim
  ∞ before c. 1717/18 (-?-) Edel (Adelheid) ...
  Children: 1. Abraham (c. 1718 – 1801 Bornh.; unmarried);
  2. Heymann (after 1808: Joseph Katz; c. 1718 Bornheim – 1810 Frimmersdorf-Neurath; family "Katz" – descendants: family "Lion" in Frimmersdorf, family "Brünell" in Israel, Amsterdam, Burgbrohl)
  3. Joseph (= Geysel ?) (c. 1726/27 – 1808 Bornheim)
  4. -?- Rose Leyser (died after 1777), ∞ before 1743 Hirtz Natan Levi, "Schutzjud" in Godesberg since before 1733: family "Juelich" in the Rhineland)

↓

- Joseph (or: Geysel -?-) Cahn, born c. 1726/27 Bornheim, died 13. Oct. 1808 Bornheim; commission dealer ("Mäkler"), butcher in Bornheim; lived in 1801 with his son-in-law Leib Koppel in Bornheim-Hodorf, Königstr., house Nr. 101)
  1. ∞ (?) Röschen (Veronica) Wolff
  children: 1. Gudgen (Gudula, Judith) (Bornh. 1756/57 – 1823 Waldorf)
  2. Wolff (Bornh. 1760 – 1839 Bornh.)

  2. ∞ Keilchen (Carolina) Brendel Levi, died before 1799 Bornh.
  children: 1. Zerle (Sara) (Bornh. 1766/67 – 1846 Bornh.)
  2. Abraham (Bornheim 1774 – 1865 Bonn)

- Wolff Cahn (cf. special sheet ©)
  born 02. Mar. 1760 Bornheim, died 08. 06. 1839 Bh. – 2. ∞ 1807 Sara Isack (1770 – 1839)

↓

- Isak Cahn, b. 10. Aug. 1811 (→ (B)) Bornh., d. 18. Feb. 1882 Bornh. – ∞ 1838 Sibilla Schmitz

- Joseph Cahn
  b. 14. Apr. 1839 Bh.
  d. 05. Sept. 1897 Bh.

- Moses Cahn
  b. 12. Jul. 1855 Bh.
  d. 05. Apr. 1921 Bh.

= your two grandfathers

- Abraham Chan (Cahn)
  born 26. Oct. 1774 Bornh., died 1. Oct. 1865 Bonn. – (cf. notes in the letter)
  1. ∞ 1800 Jachet Calmen (1779 – 1810)

↓

- Keilchen (Carolina) Cahn, born 12. May 1801 Bonn, d. 11. Oct. 1854 Godesberg
  ∞ 1832 Jonas Jülich, Godesberg

(illegitimate!)

↓

- Gudula Cahn -?- Julchen Jülich
  b. 24. May 1832 Endenich (Poppelsdorf)
  d. (?) 31. Jan. 1898 Laar (Duisburg)
  -?- ∞ before 1855 Heinrich Wilhelm Büchter (gentile)

↓

- Henrietta Büchter (Ruhrort 1862 – 1933 Duisburg-Beeck)

= My father's great-grandmother

Ⓑ

– Isak Cahn (Signed: Isak Wolf [1838]; Isak Kahn [after 1844])

born 10. Aug. 1811 Bornheim – died 18. Feb. 1882 Bh.
Son of: Wolff Cahn and Sara Isack (–> Ⓒ)

Dealer in Bornheim

∞ 06. Jun. 1838 Waldorf

– Sibilla (or: Pauline) Schmitz a.k.a. Sibilla Wolf
(maybe "Wolf" was her father's Jewish-German name)

born 1808 Meckenheim
Daughter of: Hieronimus Schmitz, dealer in Meckenheim, died before 1834, and Josephine (or: Helena) Schwartz (–> Ⓕ)

[Sibilla's brother Joseph Schmitz born 1811, married on Sept. 17, 1834 in Waldorf Keilchen (= Carolina) Cahn, born 04. Mar. 1808 in Bornheim, the sister of Isak Cahn. They were the ancestors of the family Schmitz in Bornheim.]

– Their children:

- Joseph – your one grandfather – born 14. Apr. 1839 Bornh.
  died 05. Sept. 1897 -"-
- Benjamin [named after his grandfather], born 1841
  died 23. Jul. 1841 Bornh.
- Philipp, born 28. Nov. 1842 Bh., died 07. Feb. 1843 Bh.
- Levy = Leopold Kahn, born 01. Sept. 1844 Bh.
  died 1927 Wesseling
  ∞ ... Elise Katz (1848 – 1901 Wesseling) [daughter of: Abraham Katz, butcher in Wesseling, and Jetta Koppel]
  Their son: Albert Kahn in Wesseling,
  ∞-?- Adele Meyer (1878 – 1926)
- Jacob, born 09. Apr. 1847 Bh., died 1920 Bh. [1907: cattle dealer, Königstr. 45]. ∞ ... Bertha Israel (Alfter 1855 – 1934 Bornheim)
- Jeanette, born 22. Apr. 1849 Bh., died 05. May 1849 Bh.
- Abraham, born 29. May 1850 Bh., died 1918 – Lechenich
  ∞ ... Bertha Bär (1856 – 1918)
- Moses – your second grandfather – born 12. Jul. 1855 Bh.
  died 05. Apr. 1921 Bh.
  (1907: "Händler", Königstr. 16)

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- **Wolff Cahn** (father of Isak Cahn --> (B) -, your great-grandfather) (Signed: וואלף כץ [= Wolf KaZ], 1800; could not write German)
  born 02. March 1760 Bh. - died 08. June 1839 Bh.
  Son of: Geysel (= Joseph) Cahn and Rösgen Wolff

  Drover, dealer (cattle) and butcher in Bornheim.
  Lived in 1801 in Bornheim - Hodorf; Königstr. house Nr. 117

- 1. ∞ (before 1802) **Hille Heymann** (called: Seligmann)
  b. 1758/59 Mendig (near Mayen) - d. 01. Nov. 1806 Bh.
  Daughter of: Heymann Seligmann and Eva Hendel

  Children:
  - Seligmann Wolff Cahn (-> below)
    b. 19. Jan. 1802 Bh. - d. 1884 Bh.
  - Leyser Wolff, b. 20. Jan. 1805 Bh. - 10. Feb. 1808 Bh.

- 2. ∞ 09. Apr. 1807 Waldorf: **Sara Isack**
  b. 06. May 1770 Wißkirchen (Euskirchen-) - d. 03. Mar. 1839 Bh.
  Daughter of: David Isack and Rösgen Joseph, Wißkirchen

  Children:
  - Keilchen (Carolina) Cahn (-> (D)), b. 04. Mar. 1808 Bh.
  - Isak Wolf Cahn (-> (B)), b. 10. Aug. 1811 Bh. - d. 18. Feb. 1882 Bh.

- **Seligmann Cahn** (a.k.a. Seligmann Wolff)
  (could not write German before 1842; 1846: "Cahn"; 1871: "Selim Cahn")
  born 19. Jan. 1802 Bh. - died ... 1884 Bh.
  Son of: Wolff Cahn and Hille Heymann (-> above)

  Dealer in Bornheim (not poor: high taxes in 1862)

- ∞ 16. May 1831 Waldorf: Carolina Scheuer
  b. 1801/02 Poppelsdorf
  Daughter of: Abraham Scheuer and Fratgen Isaac, Poppelsdorf

  Children:

- Abraham	b. 1832	- d. 11. Oct. 1838 Bh.
- Eva	b. 10. Apr. 1835 Bh.	
- Carolina	b. 15. Feb. 1837 Bh.	- d. 22. Feb. 1837 Bh.
- Isaac	b. 11. Aug. 1838 Bh.	(-> (D))
- Wolf	b. 20. March 1840 Bh.	(-> (D))
- Friederica	b. 18. March 1842 Bh.	

- **Keilchen (Carolina) Cahn**

born 04. March 1808 Bh. – died after 1866
daughter of: Wolff Cahn and Sara Isack (-> ©)

- ∞ 17. Sept. 1834 Waldorf : Joseph Schmitz
(brother of Sibilla Wolf or Schmidt, the wife of Isak Cahn, your great-grandfather)
born 1810 / M. Meckenheim – died after 1866
Son of: Hieronimus Schmitz and Josephine Schwartz

Dealer and butcher in Bornheim.

Descendants: families SCHMITZ ; SÜRTH (Brühl)

- **Isaac Cahn** (Signed: "Isaac Cahn")

born 11. Aug. 1838 Bh. – died – ? –
Son of: Seligmann Cahn and Carolina Scheuer (-> ©)
Dealer in Bornheim.

- ∞ before 1866 (not in Waldorf) : Carolina Levy
born c. 1843/44 ...

Children:
- Elise, b. 01. Oct. 1866 Bh. – d. after 1939
- Philipp, b. 27. May 1868 Bh.

(no more children in Bornheim between 1869 and 1875)

Did the family move to another place ?

- **Wolf Cahn** (Signed: "Wolf Cahn")

born 20. March 1840 Bh. – died 1885 Bh.
Son of: Seligmann Cahn and Carolina Scheuer (-> ©)

Dealer in Bornheim.

- ∞ ... ... : Adele Baer
born 1841 Arloff (Münstereiffel) – d. 1901 Bh.

Children: – ? –

Ⓔ

– Abraham Chan (= Cahn)

born 26. Oct. 1774 Bornheim – died 01. Oct. 1865 Bonn
Son of: Joseph Cahn and Keilchen Levi (→ Ⓐ)

Dealer, butcher, day-laborer in Bonn since 1798.
Lived in the "Juden-Gaß" and in the "Kaul", the slums of Bonn.

–1. ∞ 05. Dec. 1800 Bonn : Jachet Callmann
b. 20. Mar. 1779 Rheindorf (Beuel-) – d. 05. Dec. 1810 Bonn
Daughter of: Callmann Lazarus and Vogel Beermann

Children:
- Keilchen (Carolina) Cahn, b. 12. May 1801 Bonn, d. 11. Oct. 1854 Godesberg. – ∞ 1832 Endenich : Jonas Jülich (Godesberg 1790 – after 1864), butcher in Godesberg
- Hanna (Johanna) Cahn, b. 01. Jan. 1804 Bonn, d. 20. Oct. 1846 Bonn unmarried.
- Vögelgen (Sophia) Cahn, b. 23. Jan. 1808 Bonn, d. 13. Jan. 1880 Bonn unmarried.
- Joseph Chan, b. 06. Jan. 1810 Bonn, d. 01. Mar. 1860 Bonn. – Hatter (1833), dealer, butcher, day-laborer in Bonn. ∞ 16. May 1838 Bonn : Carolina Wolff (Kirchheim 1811 – c. 1881 Bonn), D. of: Arnold Wolff and Sara Marx, Kirchheim.
  Children:
  - Hennette Chan, b. 6. Feb. 1839 Bonn; ∞ 1868 Bonn : Alfred Ludwig Kasten, b. 1833 Dingelstädt (Magdeburg) (gentile).
  - Aron (Adolph) Chan, b. 02. Oct. 1840 Bonn, d. after 1906. – Merchant ("Band- und Putzwaren") since 1872, man of private means since 1885 in Bonn. – ∞ 29. May 1872 Bonn: Rosa Stemmeler, b. 1850 Bonn (gentile).
  - Carl, b. 06. June 1842 Bonn, d. 06. June 1843 Bonn
  - Wolfgang Chan, b. 08. Dec. 1843 Bonn, d. 12. Dec. 1876 Bonn. – Taylor in Bonn, unmarried.
  - Sara Chan, b. 17. Mar. 1845 Bonn
  - Sophia Chan, b. 07. Oct. 1846 Bonn. – ∞ 1873 Köln : Josef Westendorf, tobacco worker in Cologne (gentile).
  - Jacob Chan, b. 31. May 1848 Bonn. – Merchant in Heilbronn (1874). – ∞ 1874 ... : Regina Schottländer, daughter of: Marx Hirsch Schottländer and Friederike Hirsch, Heilbronn.
  - Johanna Chan, b. 25. Apr. 1851 Bonn
  - Levi (Leopold) Cahn, b. 01. June 1852 Bonn. – Mechanic in Metz (1875). – ∞ 1875 Metz : Coelestine Moses, daughter of: Benedict Moses and Adelheid Levy, Metz.
  - Regina Chan, b. 14. Aug. 1853 Bonn

(contin. from Ⓔ)   Ⓕ

- 2. ∞ (of Abraham Chan, son of Joseph Cahn): 1816 (not in Bonn): Ester Treudel
  born Mayen (near Koblenz) c. 1777, died 04. July 1847 Bonn
  Daughter of: Isaac Treudel and Gudula Jacob.

— No Descendants of this family known! —

- Gudgen Joseph a.k.a. Gudula (Judith) Cahn

  born 1756/57 Bornheim – died 04. Feb. 1823 Waldorf
  Daughter of: Joseph Cahn and Veronica (Wolff) (→ Ⓐ)
  ∞ before 1786 ... : Simon Hirtz
  born 1745 Randerath (near Geilenkirchen), died 1802 Waldorf

  Cattle dealer in Waldorf.

  Descendants: families LEVY and SALM in Waldorf.

- Zerla (Sara) Cahn

  born 1766/67 Bornheim – died 21. March 1846 Bornheim
  Daughter of: Joseph Cahn and Carolina Levi (→ Ⓐ)
  ∞ c. 1797 Bornheim: Leib (Leopold) Coppel
  born c. 1769 Schnaittach (near Fürth) – d. 1851 Bornheim
  Cattle dealer and butcher in Bornheim.

  Descendants: families Koppel, Levenbach, Israel in Bornheim; Ajacobi in Jüchen; Kappel and Kahn in Brühl!

Ancestors of Sibilla Schmitz a.k.a. Sibilla Wolf (→ Ⓑ)

- Father: Hieronymus (Hirz) Schmitz (epitaph in Meckenheim:
  ר' לב צבי בר יוסף ברלין
  born 1750/51 Gelsdorf (near Meckenheim), died 1824 Meckenheim
  Dealer in Gelsdorf, after c. 1800 Meckenheim.
- 1. ∞ before 1791: Johanna Nathan, died before 1805
  Son: - Bernhard Schmitz, b. 1791 Gelsdorf; dealer, butcher in Morenhoven
- 2. ∞ before 1808: Helena (Josephine) Schwartz, died after 1837
  children: - Sibilla Schmitz, b. 1808 Meckenheim (→ Ⓑ)
  - Joseph Schmitz, b. 1810/11 –"– ; ∞ Keilchen Cahn (→ Ⓓ).

- Grandfather: Joseph Berlin, died before 1799; in Gelsdorf since before 1740. – ∞ before 1751:
  Children: – Hirz (Hieronymus) Schmitz, b. 1750/51 Gelsdorf (→ above)
  – Leib Berlin, Gelsdorf 1754/55 – 1834 Bonn. – Horse dealer, in Bonn since 1806.
  – Michel Berlin Geisler, before 1785 from Gelsdorf to Meckenheim. – Servant, fruit dealer (after 1785) in Meckenheim.

Some Notes to the Documents
(Numbers on the backside)

① Second mention of "Heyman Juedt" – Heyman the Jew (→ Ⓐ) – in Bornheim: he pays 14 Gulden for the safe-conduct in 1691 to the "Herr von Bornheim"
(Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz Abt 54,22 Nr. 626. – "Schreib- und Rechenbuch der Herrlichkeit Bornheim")

② "Juden Tribut" for the six Jewish families in Bornheim and Hodorf for the year 1736. Among these: Jzman Heyman and Lazarus Heyman (→ Ⓐ). They still had to pay 14 Gulden for the safe-conduct.
(Hauptstaatsarchiv [HSt.A] Düsseldorf, Best. Dep. Stadt Köln Akten Nr. 105. – "Hochadeliges Haus Bornheim 1736")

③ In the inhabitant lists of the French Empire for the year VII (= 1798/99) we find in Bornheim:
"– Leib Koppel (6th from above) – 30 – Marchand [= dealer] – entré l'an 6 [= in Bornheim since 1797/98] – un an [= 1 year in Bornheim]
– Cerle Kaan (→ Ⓕ), 33 years, his wife, Bornheim
– Geÿsel Kaan (→ Ⓐ), 70 years, dealer –"–
– Abeler [= Abraham] Kaan, 81, dealer –"–
– Lif Mayer, 68, dealer –"–

In one household – two years later it's defined as Königstr. Nr. 101 in Hodorf – there lived Geÿsel Cahn – your ancestor –, his brother Abraham, his daughter Zerle Cahn, his son-in-law Leib Coppel, and their servant Leib (Lif) Meyer.
(HSt A Düsseldorf Roer-Departement 1721 I, Heft 4 – Canton Brühl, Arrondissement Köln, Commune Bornheim)

④ Birth certificate of Hirtz, son of Simon Mayer, in Bornheim on Mar. 21, 1800. One of the two witnesses was "Geÿsel Kaan" (→ Ⓐ), underlined with pencil. He signed: /''2 /2''
[= Jeisel Qan].

⑤ Death certificate of Abraham Cahn, son of "Leisel" [= Leiser] Cahn and Edel (→ Ⓐ), in Bornheim on Sept. 13, 1801 – he was said to be 86 years old, born in Bornheim. – Witnesses were "Jeisel" Cahn (→ Ⓐ), brother of Abraham, and Wolf Cahn (→ Ⓒ), "Vetter" von Abraham – "Vetter" is a male relative of the father's family and can mean "cousin" or "nephew". They declared to be unable to write [German!].

⇒

⑥ The only document with Wolff Cahn's – your ancestor's (→ Ⓒ) – signature on it, at least which I could find. – Birth certificate of Kälgen [= Keilchen or Carolina], daughter of Leib "Kuppel" [= Coppel] and Cergen Kaan [= Zerle Cahn, daughter of Joseph Cahn] (→ Ⓕ), on Apr. 24, 1800 in Bornheim. – Witnesses were Wolff "Kaan" and his servant, Liff Mayer (cf. Ⓑ).

⑦ Marriage certificate of your great-great-grand parents:
- Wolff Caan, 47 years, born in Bornheim on Mar. 02, 1760. – Dealer in Bornheim
  Son of: Geißel Caan, Bornheim, present, and Rössgen Wolff, dead

∞

- Sare Isack, 36 years, born in Wißkirchen on May 6, 1770. – Daughter of: David Isack (dead) and Roessgen Josephe (dead) in Wißkirchen

Witnesses:
1. Moyses Wallerstein, 63 years, Thora teacher in Bonn
2. Levi Ullmann, 62 years, Thora teacher in Bornheim
3. Leib Meyer, 71 years, calf dealer in Bornheim
4. Isack Levi, 30 years, dealer in Waldorf

(Isack Levi was husband of Hille Simon, the daughter of Gudula Cahn (→ Ⓕ) – Wolff Cahn's possible sister!)

Signatures only from: M. Wallerstein and L. Ullmann (in German); I. Levi ["Segl bar Chajim..."] and L. Meyer (in Hebrew). (cf. Ⓒ)

⑧ Death certificate of Joseph, son of Leyser Kaan, (= Geysel Cahn?), your possible ancestor (→ Ⓐ), on Oct. 13, 1808 in Bornheim.
Declarants were two neighbors: Moises Abraham, born c. 1735/40 in Bohemia, and Simon Meyer, born c. 1749 in Hüffelsheim (near Bad Kreuznach).

⑨ Death certificate of "Isaac Wolff Cain" [= Wolff Cahn, → Ⓒ] on June 8, 1835 in Bornheim.
Besides the name confusion there are a few errors in this certificate (correction in brackets).
Widower in 2nd. marriage, born in Bornheim, "76" years old [= 79 y.], dealer in Bornheim. – Son of: Joseph Cain [!] and his wife "Edel Cain" [= Röschen Wolf; Edel was his grandmother's name, → Ⓐ].
Declarants were the neighbor Levy Mayer, 33 years, and his son-in-law Joseph Schmitz; the husband of Keilchen Cahn (→ Ⓓ).

[Certificates Nr. ④ to ⑨ from the vital statistics of the mayor's office of Waldorf, in the Personenstands-archiv in Brühl]

Ancestry of Joseph and Moses Cahn

(Ⓐ, Ⓑ etc. means : see page Ⓐ, Ⓑ etc.)

Heymann Ⓐ ∞ . . . .

Leyser Kaan Ⓐ ∞ before 1718 : Edel

Geysel (Joseph ?) Cahn Ⓐ ∞ Röschen Wolff
(1726/27 – 1808 ?)

David Isack ∞ Rösgen Joseph

Ⓕ Joseph Berlin
(. . . – before 17

Wolff Cahn Ⓒ ∞ 1807 : Sara Isack
(1760 – 1839) (1770 – 1839)

Helena Schwartz Ⓕ ∞ Hieronymus Schw
(. . . – after 1837) (1750/51 – 182

Isak Cahn Ⓑ ∞ 1838 : Sibilla Schmitz
(1811 – 1882) (1808 – . . .)

Joseph Cahn ∞ 1882 : Julie Tobias
(1839 – 1897) (1849 – 1914)

Moses Cahn ∞ 1885 : Sibylla Salm
(1855 – 1921) (1851 – 1928)

Sally Cahn ∞ 1919 . Paula Cahn
(1892 – 1967) (1886 – 1962)

Freyman Jacob

14 fl schuldig gewesen:

Hergegen bringt derselbe ein nachfolgende Zettel.

für Salz 145 pfund halb stücks 1 fl 22 albus 8 hlr

so ihm der Schuldigkeit abgezogen

Restiert Freyman Jacob noch 12 fl 1 albus 4 hlr.

welches er bezahlt.

Juden Tribut

Unter denen in hiesiger herrschafft nemblich in Bornheim und Hedorff undergesessenen juden Muß ein jeder für sich und seine familie ahn Tribut oder geschütz=geldt jahrs bezahlen ad = 14 Guldt Cöllnisch.

dieser familien seindt dermahlen = 6. nemblich:

Lippman Moijses.
Itzman Heijman
Lazarus Heijman
Isac Fiberman
Jacob Levi – und
Abraham Ruben.

(3)

Sylvina Weber	31	Sa fille	idem	-	-	-	432	
Bernard Liebert	41	[illegible]	idem	-	-	-	433	idem
Sybilla [illegible]	53	Sa femme	idem	-	-	5	434	
Antoine [illegible]	19	Son fils	idem	-	-	-	435	
Catherine Liebert	15	Sa fille	idem	-	-	-	436	
Louis [illegible]	30	[illegible]	idem	Entré [illegible]	en [illegible]	-	437	
[illegible] Jean	33	Sa femme	idem	-	-	-	438	
[illegible] Jean	70	[illegible]	idem	-	-	-	439	
[illegible]	81	idem	idem	-	-	-	440	
[illegible]	68	idem	idem	-	-	-	441	
[illegible]	37	[illegible]	idem	-	-	-	442	
Marie [illegible]	54	Sa femme	idem	-	-	-	443	
Wilhelm Weiler	16	Son fils	idem	-	-	-	444	
Margareth [illegible]	31	Sa fille	idem	-	-	-	445	
Louis [illegible]	40	[illegible]	idem	-	-	-	446	
Maria [illegible]	30	Sa femme	idem	-	-	-	447	
Jean [illegible]	50	cultivateur	idem	-	-	-	448	
Anna [illegible]	52	Sa femme	idem	-	-	5	449	
Jacques [illegible]	16	domestique	idem	-	-	-	450	
[illegible] Schaller	16	[illegible]	idem	Entré [illegible]	en [illegible]		[illegible]	

Freyheit. Gleichheit.

Heute den Zwey[?]sechsten Tag des Monats ventose
[?]ten Jahrs der französischen einig- und unzertheilbaren Republik um
vier Uhr nachmittags ist vor mir Lorentz(?) Nores
Munizipal-Agent der Gemeinde bornheim(?) Cantons Trecht(?), Rhein-
Departements, in gemeinem Hause erschienen der Bürger Simon
Maijer wohnhaft in gesagter Gemeinde, Cantons und De-
partements, begleitet von lipp maijer — als sechzig
Jahr und geijsel Kaan — als siebenzig zum Jahr
der erste wohnhaft in der Gemeinde bornheim Cantons trecht
Rhein Departements, der zweyte wohnhaft in der Gemeinde bornheim
Cantons trecht Rhein Departements, und hat mir Simon
maijer erklärt, dass libet(?) Bismaas(?) seine recht-
mässige Ehefrau, gestern den neun und zwanzigsten Tag des laufenden
Monats um sechs Uhr nachmittags in seinem Hause zu bornheim
mit einem Kinde männlichen Geschlechts niedergekommen ist, welches
er mir vorgezeigt, und welchem er den Vornahmen Herz(?) Simon
gegeben hat; zufolge dieser Erklärung, welche die Bürger lipp —
Maijer und geijsel Kaan der Wahrheit gemäss be-
scheiniget haben, und nachdem mir genanntes Kind ist vorgezeigt worden, ha-
be ich kraft der mir übertragenen Gewalt den gegenwärtigen Akt aufge-
setzt, welchen ~~lipp maij~~ Simon maijer Vater des Kindes, und die
beyden Zeugen lipp maijer und geijsel Kaan
mit mir unterschrieben haben.

So geschehen in gemeinem Hause zu bornheim auf den Tag,
Monat und Jahr wie hier oben.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Nores agent

[illegible]

REP. FRA. 75 cent.

1 S.

(5)

Sterbact.

Mairie von Waldorf.

Gemeinde Bezirk von Cölln.

Vom sechs und zwanzigsten Tag des Monats Frimaire Neunten Jahrs der fränk-Republik.

Sterbact von Abraham Cahn. verstorben den fünf und zwanzigsten dieses um sieben Uhr des abends. des Alters von sechs und achtzig Jahr. Geboren zu Bornheim. wohnhaft zu Bornheim Mairie Waldorf. Departement Rhein und Mosel.

Sohn des Leisel Cahn
und von Edel [illegible] verheirathet.

Auf die Declaration, die mir gemacht worden von dem Bürger Seisel Cahn. wohnhaft zu Bornheim Viehhändler, als welcher gesagt: der Sohn des Verstorbenen, und von dem Bürger Wolf Cahn. wohnhaft zu Bornheim, Viehhändler, als welcher gesagt: der Enkel des Verstorbenen, und haben Sämtlich erklärt, nicht schreiben zu können.

Beurkundet von mir Maximilian Friedrich Walbott Maire von der Mairie Waldorf. die Verrichtungen eines öffentlichen Beamten des Civil standes versehend [illegible] unterschrieben.

M. F. Walbott
Maire

Freyheit. Gleichheit.

Heute den fünften [?] - - - - Tag des Monats floreal
achten Jahrs der französischen einig- und unzertheilbaren Republik um
sechs Uhr nachmittags ist vor mir Lorentz [?] Nores
Municipal-Agenten der Gemeinde bergheim Cantons Brühl, Rühr-
departements, in gemeinen Hause erschienen der Bürger Leib
Kippel wohnhaft in gesagter Gemeinde, Cantons und De-
partements, begleitet von wolff kaan alt dreißig
Jahr, und liff [?] mäyer alt sechszig sechs Jahr,
der erste wohnhaft in der Gemeinde bergheim Cantons brühl
rühr Departements, der andere wohnhaft in der Gemeinde bergheim
Cantons brühl rühr Departements, und hat mir Leib
Kippel erklärt, daß gorger [?] kaan seine recht-
mäßige Ehefrau gestern den dreyzehnten [?] - - Tag des laufenden
Monats um drey Uhr nachmittags in seinem Hause zu bergheim
mit einem Kinde von weiblichen [?] Geschlechts niedergekommen ist, welches
er mir vorgezeigt, und welchem er den Vornamen Kätgen
gegeben hat; zufolge dieser Erklärung, welche die Bürger liff [?] mäyer
und wolff kaan der Wahrheit gemäß be-
scheinigt haben; und nachdem mir genanntes Kind ist vorgezeigt worden, ha-
be ich kraft der mir übertragenen Gewalt den gegenwärtigen Akt aufge-
setzt, welchen Leib Kippel Vater des Kindes und die
beyden Zeugen wolff kaan und liff [?] mäyer
mit mir unterschrieben haben.

So geschehen in gemeinen Hause zu bergheim auf den Tag,
Monat und Jahr wie hier oben.

[illegible Hebrew-script signatures]

Nores agent

DÉPARTEMENT DE LA ROER.

ARRONDISSEMENT COMMUNAL de Cologne
CANTON de Brühl
MAIRIE de Waldorff.

No 12

ACTE DE MARIAGE.

Du neuvième jour du mois d'Avril mil huit cent sept

Acte de mariage de Wolff Isaac

âgé de quarante sept ans, né à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer le deux du mois de Mars l'an mil sept cent ~~sept~~ soixante profession de [illegible] marchand demeurant à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer (veuf), fils de Geissel Isaac demeurant à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer et de Rösgen Wolff morte

Et de Sara Isaack

âgée de trente six ans, née à Wiskirchen Dép.t de la Röer le six du mois de Mai l'an mil sept cent soixante et dix fille majeure de Isaac Isaack mort demeurant à Wiskirchen Dép.t de la Röer et de Rösgen Joseph morte

Les actes préliminaires sont extraits des registres de publications faites à Bornheim le vingt deux du Mois de Mars et le vingt neuf du même mois.

et affichés aux termes de la loi à la porte principale de la mairie de Bornheim; le extraits de naissance des époux; le chapitre six du titre du mariage [illegible] présent à l'acte a déclaré consentir au mariage de son fils

de tout en forme; de tous lesquels actes il a été donné lecture, par moi, Officier public, aux termes de la loi, contre lequel mariage il n'y a eu d'opposition.

Lesdits époux présens ont déclaré prendre en mariage, l'un Wolff Isaac l'autre Sara Isaack.

En présence de Moyses Wallerstein demeurant à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer profession de maître d'école âgé de cinquante trois ans

de Isaac Ullmann demeurant à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer profession de [illegible] âgé de soixante [illegible]

de Leib [illegible] demeurant à Bornheim Dép.t de la Röer profession de marchand âgé de soixante et [illegible]

de Isaac [illegible] demeurant à Waldorff Dép.t de la Röer profession de [illegible] âgé de trente ans

Après quoi, nous [illegible] Meuser Maire de Waldorff faisant les fonctions d'Officier public de l'état civil, avons prononcé qu'au nom de la loi, lesdits époux sont unis en mariage. Et ont lesdits époux et témoins, après lecture faite, signé.

Moyses Wallerstein

DÉPARTEMENT DE LA ROER.

ARRONDISSEMENT COMMUNAL de Cologne

CANTON de Zyrich

MAIRIE de Weldorff.

No. 88.

ACTE DE DÉCÈS.

Du treizieme jour du mois d'octobre mil huit cent huit

ACTE DE DÉCÈS de Joseph Kaan

décédé le treize du mois d'octobre mil huit cent huit

à dix heure du matin, profession de — âge de Quatrevingt sept ans, né à Hornheim dépar.t de la Roer

demeurant à Hornheim

fils de Leyser Kaan

et de

Sur la déclaration à nous faite par le Sieur moises abraham âgé de soixante onze ans, demeurant à Hornheim profession de negociant qui a dit être voisin du défunt et par le Sieur Simon Mayer âgé de Cinquante trois ans, demeurant à Hornheim profession de negociant qui a dit être voisin du défunt. Et ont après lecture faite declaré ne savoir signer.

Constaté par moi Joquier Maire Maire de Weldorff faisant les fonctions d'Officier public de l'état civil, soussigné

Meurer

№ 6 **Sterb-Urkunde.** (9)

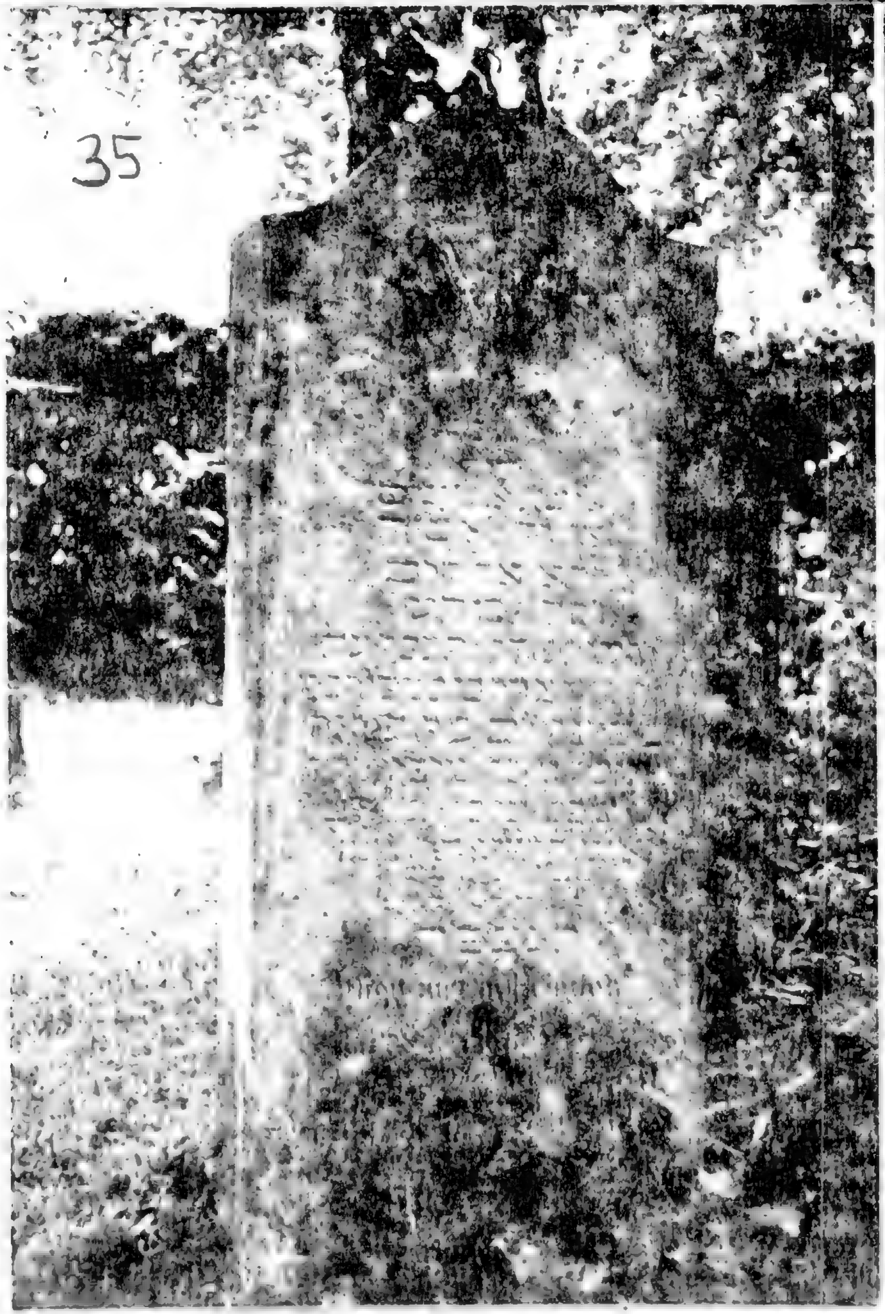
Gemeinde Waldorf Kreis Bonn Regierungs-Bezirk Cöln.

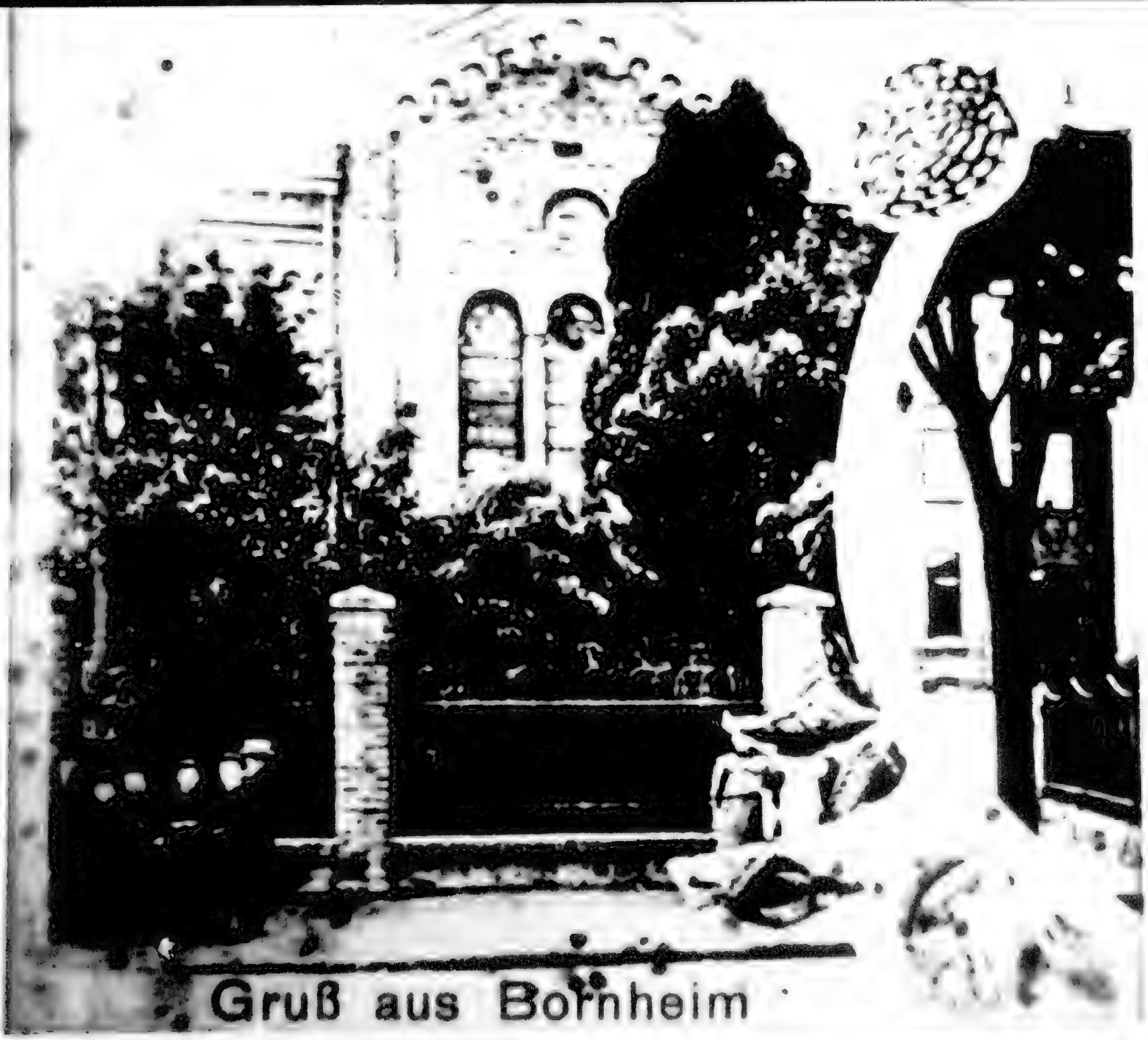
Im Jahr tausend acht hundert neun und dreißig, den ersten — des Monats Juni, Nach= mittags vier Uhr erschienen vor mir Gottfried Jussen, Gemeinderath, beigeordneter Bürgermeister von Waldorf — als Beamten des Personenstandes, der Levy Meyer drei und dreißig Jahre alt, Standes Handelsmann wohnhaft zu Bornheim — welcher ein Nachbar des Verstorbenen zu sein angab, und der Joseph Schmitz, neun und zwanzig Jahre alt Standes Handelsmann — wohnhaft zu Bornheim welcher ein Schwiegersohn des Verstorbenen zu sein angab, und haben diese beide mir erklärt daß am ersten — des Monats Juni des Jahrs tausend acht hundert neun und dreißig Mittags zwölf Uhr verstorben ist, Isaac Wolff Cain, Wittwer in zweiter Ehe — gebürtig zu Bornheim — Regierungs-Bezirk Cöln, acht und siebenzig Jahre alt, Standes Handelsmann — wohnhaft zu Bornheim Regierungs-Bezirk Cöln, Sohn von dem verstorbenen Joseph Cain und von Eddel Cain, dessen verstorbenen Ehefrau und haben vorbemerkte erklärende Personen nach ihnen geschehener Vorlesung den Inhalt der gegenwärtigen Urkunde genehmigt, und dieselbe nicht mit uns unterschrieben, erklärend, die deutsche Schrift nicht kundig zu sein. —

Der Gemeinderath.

G. Jussen

35




Gruß aus Bornheim

Synagogue Guild ca. 1866
in Bornheim near Bonn

The same Synagogue on fire
Nov. 9 1938

Cattle in the Synagogue

[illegible], July 29, 1992

Dear Mr. Cahn :

- First of all, I hope that you and your wife will have returned safely from your visit to "ha Aretz", and that you and your family are in good health !

- I'm very glad that you take so much pleasure in my researches of the Cahn-family. – Now I'm gonna try to answer the remaining questions.

- You can find the "mazeivess" (gravestones) of your ancestors on the "Gute Ort" in Bornheim. Coming from Bonn you have to turn to the left into the Pohlhausen-straße behind the local police station; this street continues as Lessingstraße; the cemetery is situated on the right side at a curve of the Lessingstraße.

- I don't know Hebrew, the "Loschenkaudesch", except a few words. I've taught myself the transcription of the "Ollefbeiss" the alphabet, in order to decipher the signatures of Jewish people on documents and short Jewish-German texts. – I had English at school six years long until '77. Afterwards my only way not to forget everything was to listen to English-spoken (better: sung) pop music and to the programs of the American Forces Network or the British Forces Broadcasting Service. I've been to the US only once, in early '81, where I've met a girl from Nicaragua who's become my pen-pal since.

- I'm sorry that you've misunderstood what I've written to you about the photographs. As I remember, I asked you, whether you possess pictures of your grandparents or their siblings, or whether you know someone who might possess pictures. – In my possession are only reproduction of photos of far relatives of you :

a) Siegmund SÜRTH, born in Brühl, Oct. 13, 1880, son of Philipp Sürth and Regine SCHMITZ (she was the granddaughter of your great-great-grandfather, Wolff CAHN, and the cousin of your grandfathers, Joseph and Moses CAHN)

b) Leo KAHN, born in Zülpich, Oct. 25, 1875, son of Hermann Kahn and Bertha KAPPEL (she was the great-granddaughter of your great-great-great-grandfather, Joseph Feissel CAHN)

c) Isidor CAHN, born in Bornheim, Dec. 15, 1883, son of Jacob CAHN, the brother of your grandfathers, and his wife Franziska (née Loeb) and their daughters Hilde and Frieda (this photo is at the municipal archives in Bornheim)

./.

- Our possible relation you can trace back on page (A) of the copies sent to you. Your great-great-grandfather, Wolff CAHN, and my - possible! - ancestor, Abraham CHAN, were most probably brothers! - in any case, their common grandfather was Lever KAAN (which is "Cahn") a.k.a. Lazarus Heymann.

- To hear about a family "KAHN" in Godesberg is totally new to me. This family must have come to Godesberg after 1855, for in a list of members of the Synagogal community Godesberg from this year there is no "Kahn". - You mention this city official who sent you the documents concerning the Kahns in Godesberg: I've been in contact with Mr. Hans KLEINPASS from the municipal archives in Bonn, himself living in Bad Godesberg. He had written an essay concerning the history of the former Synagogues in Godesberg and Mehlem, which was published in the "Godesberger Heimatblätter", Vol. 25 in 1987, but although he tried his best he couldn't help me solve the "secret" behind the birth of my ancestor, Jüdchen Jülich. - Then there is a Dr. Manfred VAN REY at the municipal archives who has researched the history of the Jewish community of Königswinter. - Do you remember who was in charge of the memorial celebrities in Bad Godesberg? Was there Mr. Dan Z. BONDY from Euskirchen present? Mr. Bondy has documented the Jewish cemetery in Godesberg.

- I don't believe that the house where Moses KATZ lived had been the old synagogue. The new Synagogue on the Königstraße was built in 1866 as consequence of the decay of the old Synagogue - the framework was rotten, so that the building probably had to be torn down.

- Leo Levenbach's mother was Mina MEYER, who was the great-granddaughter of Joseph Jeissel CAHN, your great-great-great-grandfather. Mina Meyer's mother was the cousin of your great-grandfather, Isak CAHN. Sibilla KATZ (née Levenbach), the wife of Moses Katz, was the sister of Leo Levenbach.

- The son of Isak Cahn who moved to Wesseling was Levy - he later called himself Leopold KAHN (!). About him and his family see page (B) of the copies.

With all my best wishes for you, your wife and your children

שלום עליכם, your [illegible]

Berlin, Oct. 21, '92

Dear Mr. Cahn:

- Thank you very much for your letter from Sept. 24. I've received it only shortly before I went for another trip to Northrhine-Westphalia to do some researches. A second reason for not writing you earlier was that I wanted to send you the reproductions of pictures I'd promised you to send.

- But first to your letter:

- You're right - both your grandfathers, Moses and Joseph Cahn, and one of your grandmothers were buried on the "Alte Ort" at the street now called "Lessing-Straße". - When the cemetery of Bornheim was established, probably in the late 17. century, it was situated almost 1/2 a kilometer outside of the village. Even around 1500 the next house of Bornheim was about 1/4 mile away, the next house of Botzdorf about 1/8 mile. And how you describe the way to the cemetery, the Bornheimer cemetery is another example for that the Jewish cemeteries were established in places which could not well be used by farmers and could often only be reached on narrow passes.

- No, I didn't learn Español, although my pen pal is from Nicaragua and therefore a native Spanish speaker. Only seldom we put in Spanish words into our letters to make them spicier.

- I already possess the booklet "Juden in Bornheim" issued by the Stadt Bornheim, also repros of the photo of Cahn's Isi's family, of the photo with your far relative Leo Koppel, and of the photo's of your parents. Thank you for your offer!

- Concerning a family tree I would recommend to you to get in contact with one of the Jewish Genealogical Societies, for example: Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.; c/o Michael Brenner; PO Box 6398, New York, NY 10128; (212) 427-5395 (Meets third Sunday Sept.-June).
A recommendable introduction into ~~the~~ Jewish Genealogy was published in Berlin in 1934 by the Ophthalmologist Dr. med. Arthur Czellitzer: "Mein Stammbaum. Eine genealogische Anleitung für deutsche Juden." You might find this booklet at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York.

- During my latest researches I was confirmed that my theory of the identity of my ancestress Julie Jülich and Gudula Cahn - great-granddaughter of your ancestor Joseph Geybel Cahn - is - more than probable - true.

1. Samuel Jülich, born in Godesberg in 1826, was the son of the first marriage of the Jewish butcher Jonas Jülich. This Samuel Jülich moved to (Duisburg-) Ruhrort on Sept. 9, 1855, where he first lived in the house with the number 263 "bei Büchler" – that was Heinrich Wilhelm Büchler, a railroad official, and the husband of Julie née Jülich, my ancestors. Heinrich Wilhelm Büchler was a gentile. – Samuel's father Jonas Jülich married, after the death of his first wife in early 1832, in Poppelsdorf on Dec. 13, 1832 Carolina Cahn, the mother of Gudula Cahn (born May 24, 1832). – So Samuel Jülich might have been a stepbrother to Julie Jülich.

2. In a population list of the town (Duisburg-) Laar of 1880 the birth date of Julie Büchler née Jülich, was given: May 24, 1829; May 24, 1832 was the birth date of Gudula ~~Cahn~~ Cahn, daughter of Carolina Cahn, the later wife of Jonas Jülich. As one result of my researches I know that many people in old times didn't know how old exactly they and their relatives were, so that the difference of three years don't mean so much. More interesting is the identity of day and month of the birth. – By the way, in another list Julie Jülich's age was given as one year younger than her husband's, who was born in July 1830.

– Another result of the researches is that now I'm sure that your ancestor ~~Joseph~~ Geyßel Cahn is identical with Joseph Cahn (the older), son of Lazarus Heymann Cahn: In the population list of Waldorf of 1801/02 the wife of Simon Hirtz, Gudula Cahn, the daughter of Joseph Cahn, is named "Göd Geissel", that is: "Güdgen, daughter of Geissel". Gudula Cahn was born in Bornheim around 1757/58, and died on Feb. 4, 1823, in Waldorf. – So "Geyßel" or "Jeißel" was indeed a nickname for "Joseph", an equivalent of the yiddish "Jossel".

– Now to the "Levenbach-mystery", for this is how it seems to me now:

a) Sibilla Katz, the wife of Moses Katz, who lived in the "Rheinstr. 5" in 1929, was born in Bornheim on Feb. 23, 1871 as a daughter of one "Levenbach". At that time there was only one "Levenbach" living in Bornheim, Jacob Levenbach, born 1828 in Weisweiler, who married in 1862:

(Wife of Jacob Levenbach:) Mina Meyer, born in 1839, daughter of Philipp Meyer and Caroline Coppel. This "Mina Meyer" was also named "Amalie Meyer".

b) In the "Einwohner-Adreßbuch für den Landkreis Bonn und Vorgebirge" from 1929/30 I can't find any "Meyer" – on the other side there lived a butcher named "Meyer Israel", born in Alfter in 1843, in the same house with Moses and Sibilla Katz. Meyer Israel – not vice versa – married in 1870: Emilie Meyer, born in 1843, daughter of Philipp Meyer and Carolina Coppel, the sister of Sibilla Katz' mother Amalie Meyer. So, Meyer Israel was an uncle of Sibilla Katz. He was a descendant of the old family "Israel" in Alfter, and died in 1936, with 93 years.

c) Leo Levenbach must have been the brother of Sibilla Katz, for there was no other "Levenbach" in Bornheim around 1870/80 except Jacob Levenbach; or he was not born in Bornheim?

- Let me now talk about the photographs included in this letter. On their backsides I've written numbers which correspond with the following explanations:

1. Leo Kahn, born in Zülpich on Oct. 25, 1875, son of Hermann Kahn, butcher in Zülpich, and his wife Bertha Kappel. (Bertha Kappel was born in Brühl on May 19, 1849, daughter of Joseph Kappel, butcher in Brühl, and his wife Sara Horn; Joseph Kappel was born in Bornheim on Oct. 10, 1808, as son of the cattle dealer and butcher Leib Coppel and his wife Zarle Cahn, who was the daughter of Joseph Geißel Cahn, your ancestor.
(Relation) ‖ So, Leo Kahn's grandfather Joseph Kappel was the cousin of your great-grandfather Isak Cahn. ‖
Leo Kahn lived since 1892 in Brühl, where he worked as a butcher with his uncles Albert and Jakob Kappel. After his marriage on Jan. 8, 1908, with Adelheide Baum from Lieser (Kreis Bernkastel) he became the owner of the butchery (on Uhlstr. 32). – In July 1939 Leo and Adelheide Kahn moved to Cologne, from where they were deported to Riga in Dec. 1941 – they were murdered in early 1942. (picture taken about 1939).

2. Leo Kahn (about 1918/19)

3. Fritz Kahn, born on Oct. 15, 1908 in Brühl, son of Leo Kahn (Nr. 1) and Adelheide (née Baum) Kahn. He studied law after 1927 in Cologne and Frankfurt, worked at the "Amtsgericht Brühl" and then with a lawyer in Cologne.

Fritz Kahn was dismissed in 1933. He left Brühl in 1935, to work in the company of an uncle in Berlin.
In Nov. '38 he was carried off to the KZ Dachau, but was set free a few days later, because he possessed his emigration documents. Early '39 he emigrated to Australia, where he worked as a chicken farmer, as an agent and as an office clerk. – In 1988 he lived with his wife in Killara, Australia. (picture taken around 1935)

4. Hermann Kahn, born in Cologne on Aug. 2, 1919, son of Leo Kahn (Nr. 1) and Adelheide (née Baum) Kahn. In 1935 he had to leave the Brühler Gymnasium; he was apprentice (of commerce) in a Jewish firm in Cologne until 1939. In Nov. '38 he was carried off to the KZ Dachau, and was set free only on Jan. 18, 1939. He emigrated to Denmark in Febr. 1939, from where he fled to Sweden on Oct. 15, '43. In Nov. '46 he emigrated to his brother to Australia, where he worked as a chicken farmer, as textile worker and finally as a government official. – He died in Australia on Aug. 9 1969 from a heart attack. His wife, Ilse Kahn (née Hof) lived in Australia in 1988. (picture taken around 1939/40)

5. Siegmund (Selig) Sürth, born in Brühl on Oct. 13, 1880, son of the butcher Philipp Sürth, Brühl, and his wife Regina née Schmitz (Regina Schmitz was born on Oct. 3, 1844 in Bornheim, as the daughter of Joseph Schmitz, dealer, and his wife Carolina Cahn. Carolina Cahn was born on March 4, 1808 in Bornheim, daughter of Wolff Cahn and Sara Isak, your ancestors.
(relation) ‖ Siegmund Sürth's grandmother Carolina Cahn was the sister of your great-grandfather Isak Cahn. ‖
Siegmund Sürth had a butchery on "Uhlstr. 54" in Brühl. On Nov. 15, 1910 he married Regine Fuldheim from Grenzhausen (Unterwesterwald). – On July 19, 1942 the couple was deported to Theresienstadt. They never came back. (picture taken around 1939).

6. Wolfgang Kappel, born in Brühl on Oct. 3, 1893, son of Leonhard Kappel, cattle dealer in Brühl, and his wife Jeanetta née Mawes. (Leonhard Kappel was born on Nov. 27, 1852 in Brühl, the son of Joseph Kappel and Sara Horn – he was the uncle of Leo Kahn, Nr. 1.
(relation) ‖ Wolfgang Kappel's grandfather Joseph Kappel was the cousin of your great-grandfather Isak Cahn. ‖

(contin.)

(cont.: Nr. 6) Wolfgang Kappel was a cattle dealer in Brühl, Böningerstraße. On Dec. 9, 1938 he moved with his sisters to Cologne, from where he was deported to Łódź on Oct. 25, 1941. He was murdered on July 31, 1942. (picture: Brühler bowling club, 1924)
(His sisters: 1. Henny Kappel, born 1895, married to Friedrich Hessel, emigrated over Shanghai to New York;
2. Johanna Kappel, born 1892, married David Winter, emigrated over Shanghai to New York.)

7. Henriette Catharina ("Henny") Büchter, (not Jewish) born in Ruhrort on March 21, 1862, daughter of Heinrich Wilhelm Büchter, railroad official and landlord, and his wife Julie Jülich (Julie Jülich was probably the illegitimate daughter of Carolina Cahn, and was born in Bonn-Endenich on May 24, 1832. Carolina Cahn was born on May 12, 1801, in Bonn, the daughter of Abraham Chan [Cahn], dealer, butcher and day laborer in Bonn, and his wife Jachet Calmann; Abraham Chan was born on Oct. 26, 1774 in Bornheim, the son of Joseph Gayßel Cahn, your ancestor.

(relation) || Henriette Büchter's presumable grandmother Carolina Cahn was ~~probably~~ the cousin of your great-grandfather Isak Cahn. ||

In 1879 in Beeck (Duisburg) she married the steel-worker Nicolaus Jacquet, whose parents were Belgian. She died on Aug. 10, 1933 in Duisburg-Beeck. Henny Büchter was one of my great-great-grandmothers on my father's side. (picture taken around 1926/27)

8. Carolina Johanna ("Lineken") Jaquet, born in Ruhrort on Jan. 23, 1887, the daughter of Nicolaus Jacquet and Henriette Büchter, Nr. 7. (relation: see above).
She married in 1909 in Beeck the painter Wilhelm Menk, after whose death she established a "Trinkhalle" (= refreshment kiosk) in her house. She died on Aug. 31, 1966 in Duisburg-Hamborn. (picture taken about 1934, with granddaughter Ruth Bollermann – of her daughter Henriette Bollermann née Menk).

– Before I close this letter I'd like to ask you for a favour: Is it possible for you to send me reproductions of the following photographs? Your uncle Edward Cahn; your uncle Siegfried Cahn with his wife Bertha; your aunt Paula Cahn; your uncle Millian (= Maximilian) Cahn. – Of course I would send you the money for the costs. I think every photo shop would do this work. Thank you in advance!

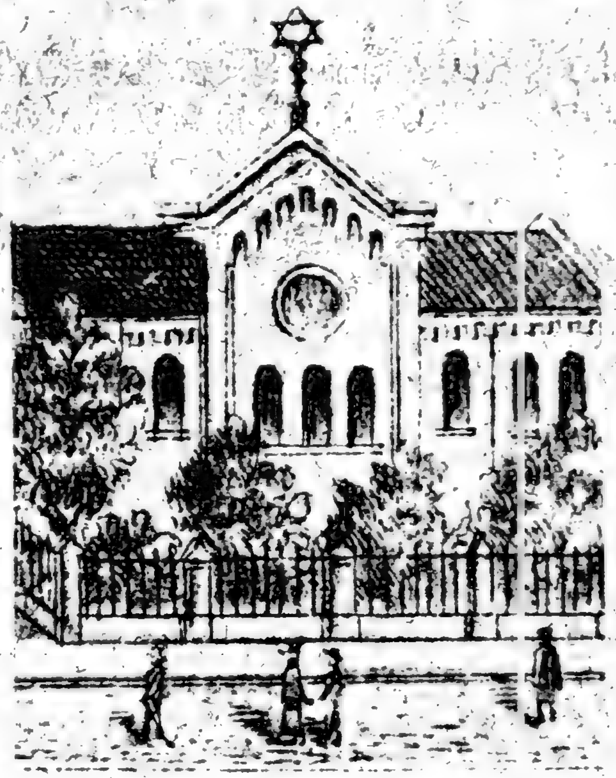
Finally, my best wishes לשנה טובה for you, your wife and your whole family – a little late, but not too late!

Your [signature]

Stadt Bornheim

STADT BORNHEIM

JUDEN IN BORNHEIM



Ausstellung

in der Bürgerhalle des Rathauses in Bornheim
vom 9. Juni bis 31. August 1989

2) Der Untergang der jüdischen Gemeinde Bornheim unter der NS-Diktatur 1933 bis 1945

2.1 Innenansicht der Synagoge in Bornheim

Die Aufnahme entstand 1938 anläßlich der Feier zum 50jährigen Ehejubiläum der Eheleute Jonas aus Walberberg.

Quelle: Stadtarchiv Bornheim (Repro);
Original im Besitz von Herrn Max Cahn, New York, USA

2.2 Die brennende Synagoge in Bornheim

Am frühen Abend des 10. November 1938 wurde die Synagoge in der Königstraße von den Nationalsozialisten in Brand gesetzt und völlig zerstört. Das Bild wurde aus sicherer Entfernung heimlich von dem damaligen Kaplan Heinrich Schneider aufgenommen.

Foto: Heinrich Schneider (1938)

Leihgeber: Archiv des Rhein-Sieg-Kreises, Bildsammlung (Repro)

2.3 Aussagen von Zeitzeugen

Zeitzeuge NN, Jahrgang 1924

War es am 9. oder 10. November 1938? Ich weiß es nicht mehr. Als 14jähriger war ich des nachmittags in der Berufsschule in der Bornheimer Straße in Bonn. Als wir um 17.00 Uhr oder 17.30 Uhr aus der Schule kamen, sahen wir schwarze Rauchwolken in Richtung der Rheinbrücke.

Es hieß plötzlich: die Synagoge brennt.

Ich bin aber mit einigen anderen Jungens nicht zu der Brandstelle gelaufen, sondern zum Münsterplatz. Als wir dort ankamen, hörten wir schon das Klirren von Schaufensterscheiben. Es war ein Geschäft am Eingang der Remigiusstraße, da wo heute Leffers steht. Schätzungsweise gut 50 Leute sahen in einem Abstand von ca. 20 Meter zu. Reaktionen dieser Zuschauer stellte ich nicht fest. Wir haben uns nicht lange dort aufgehalten und sind zur Köln-Bonner-Eisenbahn gelaufen, um den Zug nach Bornheim zu bekommen. Obwohl wir in der Bahn darüber sprachen, gab es auch hier keine Reaktion der Erwachsenen.

Ab Roisdorf haben wir am Fenster des Zuges gehangen und sahen dann das Brennen der Bornheimer Synagoge. Es wird wohl gegen 18.00 oder kurz nach 18.00 Uhr gewesen sein. Vom Bahnhof zur Königstraße bemerkte ich Leute in der Brandenburger Straße bei dem jüdischen Bekleidungsgeschäft Albert Nathan. Kleidungsstücke flogen auf die Straße. Auch von der 1. Etage. Etwa 20 Leute sahen aus der Nähe zu. Ich hatte Angst und Herzklopfen. Verdrückte mich im wahrsten Sinne des Wortes und lief zur Königstraße. Hier konnte man nur auf der linken Seite am Geschäft Roth vorbeigehen.

Die Synagoge brannte, d.h. der Dachstuhl war praktisch schon abgebrannt. Die Feuerwehr bespritzte die Nachbarhäuser Fritz van der Heiden und Hausen mit Wasser. Das Ganze war von der Feuerwehr abgeriegelt. Ich schätze, daß es vielleicht 30 bis 50 Zuschauer waren, die zusahen und sich unterhielten. Besondere Reaktionen habe ich nicht in Erinnerung. Alle Gespräche drehten sich um Vergeltungsmaßnahmen wegen des Attentats auf den Botschaftrat vom Rath in der deutschen Botschaft in Paris.

Aus datenschutzrechtlichen Gründen werden die Namen der Zeitzeugen nicht genannt. Sie sind dem Stadtarchiv Bornheim bekannt.

3.35 Max Cahn

Sohn von Sally und Paula Cahn, früher wohnhaft in Bornheim, Servatiusweg, heute USA

Bis zu meinem zehnten Lebensjahr fühlte ich mich genau so deutsch wie alle anderen Mitbürger. Der einzige Unterschied war, daß ich der jüdischen Religion angehörte, aber der Meinung war, daß der Gott im Himmel der selbe sei. Ich ging wie alle anderen Schüler zur Volksschule und verbrachte meine Freizeit mit meinen Schulkameraden. Mich verband eine feste Freundschaft mit allen, die mit mir zur Schule gingen.

Es war Ende des Jahres 1932, als ich meine erste Enttäuschung erlebte und mein Denken und Bewußtsein sich leider änderten. Wie es in der ganzen Welt üblich ist, wenn man Musik hört und eine Parade sieht, will man wissen, was vorgeht. So ging es auch mir, als ich Soldaten marschieren hörte. Mein Vater und ich gingen schnell zur Hauptstraße, um alles sehen zu können. Leider wurde ich sehr enttäuscht, als wir die Nazis in schwarzen Hosen, weißen Hemden und braunen S.A.-Mützen singend aufmarschieren sahen. Die Kapelle spielte und die Nazis sangen „Kameraden, Soldaten, hängt die Juden, stellt die Bonzen an die Wand". Mein Vater bemerkte sofort, daß die Nazis das S.S.-Abzeichen trugen und sagte zu mir: „Komm, wir gehen nach Hause!"

Meine zweite große Enttäuschung kam kurz nach dem 30. Januar 1933. Die ersten Maßnahmen der Nazis begannen am 1. April 1933 mit der Bekanntmachung des Boykotts gegen jüdische Geschäfte. Das Motto lautete: „Kauft nicht bei Juden!" Um der deutschen Bevölkerung Angst einzujagen, stellte man 2 bis 6 Nazis in braunen Uniformen vor die Geschäfte. Da der 1. April auf einen Samstag fiel, machte die jüdische Gemeinde den Vorschlag, den Synagogen-Gottesdienst schon um 6.00 Uhr früh zu beginnen, damit jeder um 10.00 Uhr zu Hause sein könne, um die Geschäfte für diesen Tag zu schließen. Mein Vater hatte im Ersten Weltkrieg an der Front gekämpft und für seine Verdienste das Eiserne Kreuz erhalten. Als er sich sein Eisernes Kreuz ansteckte, sagte er zu mir: „Wenn wir aus der Synagoge kommen und die Nazis vor unserer Türe stehen, müssen sie, wie es bei den Soldaten üblich war, vor demjenigen salutieren, der ein Eisernes Kreuz trägt". Ich erinnere mich noch sehr genau, als wir aus der Synagoge kamen und wir uns nach allen Seiten umsahen, entdeckten wir, daß die Nazis vor den jüdischen Geschäften standen.

Dann kam meine dritte Enttäuschung, nämlich als die Reichswehr ins Rheinland einmarschierte und ein Teil der Soldaten auf dem Feuerwehrplatz in Bornheim stationiert wurde. Wie alle Jugendlichen, die naturgemäß neugierig sind, wurden die Soldaten von uns Kindern begrüßt, und wir kletterten auf die Tanks und die Kanonen und spielten Soldaten. Leider ging das nicht lange gut. Ein Nazi sprach meine Schulkameraden an und sagte: „Der Junge ist doch ein Jude, wie könnt ihr nur mit ihm spielen?" Daraufhin verjagten mich meine Freunde. Ich bemerkte, daß sich die antisemitische Welle vergrößerte. Trotz des großen seelischen Schmerzes, den ich dabei erlitt, fühlte ich doch, daß die Jungens es nicht als sehr angenehm empfunden haben, mich wegzujagen, und viele taten es nur, um sich wichtig zu machen.

Einige Wochen später erlitt ich wieder eine große Enttäuschung. Wir hatten eine Schulkapelle und mein Lehrer ... kam zu mir und erklärte, daß ich in Zukunft der Kapelle nicht mehr angehören dürfe. Die Kapelle müsse in Uniform marschieren, und ich als Jude könne nicht mitgehen.

Kurz nach dieser Erfahrung wurden die Nürnberger Gesetze erlassen, nach denen alle jüdischen Schüler die christlichen Schulen zu verlassen und nur noch auf jüdische Schulen zu gehen hatten. Es war 1935, und alle Bornheimer jüdischen Schulpflichtigen gingen dann nach Bonn zur jüdischen Schule. Ich begann dort mein achtes Schuljahr. Ein Jahr später beschloß ich, weiter auf der Schule zu bleiben, da es mir unmöglich war, eine berufliche Stellung zu finden.

Da in Bonn eine zionistische Jugendgruppe existierte und viele meiner neuen Freunde von der jüdischen Schule Mitglieder dieser Gruppe waren, trat auch ich in diese Organisation ein. Dort wurde uns ständig gesagt, daß es keine Zukunft für Juden in Deutschland gäbe. Die einzige Lösung für Juden bestünde darin, in das damalige Palästina auszuwandern.

Für die Jugendlichen hatte man eine Jugend-Liga gegründet, die nach den nötigen Vorbereitungen Jugendliche zur Auswanderung und neuer Eingliederung nach Palästina verhalfen. Alle Informationen, die wir dort erhielten, waren für mich sehr nützlich.

Dann erlebte ich meine letzte Enttäuschung: Es war im März 1936, als ich mit der Bahn nach Bonn zur Schule fuhr und wie immer einige christliche Freunde, die zur Arbeit fuhren, im selben Zug waren.

Wir unterhielten uns über viele Dinge. Doch dieser Tag sollte ganz anders enden als alle anderen. Dieser Tag überzeugte mich endgültig, Deutschland zu verlassen. Wir waren insgesamt sieben Freunde. Mit einem Jungen unterhielt ich mich über seine Arbeit. Er erzählte mir, daß er in einer Flugzeugfabrik arbeite und was er dort mache. Ganz in der Nähe stand ein Hitlerjugendführer in Uniform, der unserer Unterhaltung zugehört hatte. Plötzlich sagte er zu meinem Freund: „Warum gebt ihr dem Juden Informationen? Er wird alle diese Informationen unseren Feinden verraten. Verprügelt den Juden!" Nur wenige Sekunden vergingen, und ich wurde von allen sechs Jungen, die ja meine Freunde waren, verprügelt. Es war so schrecklich, und ich glaube, dieses Gefühl kann keiner nachempfinden, der es nicht selber erlebt hat. Ein blaues Auge und ein blutiges Gesicht waren das Ergebnis dieser Prügelei. Inzwischen kamen wir am Bonner Bahnhof an, und ich ging trotz allem zur Schule. Als ich in der Schule ankam, fragte mein Lehrer, was mir geschehen sei, und ich erzählte ihm die ganze Geschichte. Der Lehrer schickte mich nach Hause, damit meine Mutter mit mir zu einem Arzt gehen konnte. Als ich zu Hause ankam, waren meine Eltern ganz entsetzt, und wir gingen sofort zu unserem Arzt. Es wurden mir kalte Umschläge verordnet, und wir alle waren zufrieden, daß die Verletzungen nicht größer waren.

Natürlich war das alles ein Wendepunkt für mich, und ich verlangte von meinen Eltern, mir die Erlaubnis zu geben, nach Palästina auswandern zu dürfen. Doch leider ohne Erfolg.

Am darauffolgenden Sonntag gingen wir nach Bonn zu einer Geburtstagsfeier meines Onkels. Da mein Onkel als ein ausgezeichneter Ratgeber galt und zudem eine angesehene Persönlichkeit war, mit dem die Bauern vom Vorgebirge Geschäfte machten (Landesprodukte, Vertrieb von Obst und Gemüse, Versteigerung), suchten meine Eltern Rat bei ihm. Ganz unerwartet schlug er vor, mich nach Palästina auswandern zu lassen. Die Antwort meines Vaters fiel natürlich negativ aus, und er sagte zu meinem Onkel: „Du denkst wohl, ich erziehe meine Kinder und schicke sie dann nach Palästina, um sie dann wahrscheinlich nie wiederzusehen."

Mein Onkel überzeugte meinen Vater schließlich doch noch. Er schlug meinen Eltern vor, daß wir alle zusammen auswandern sollten. Er kannte zwei Länder in Südamerika, die für Flüchtlinge eine Einreiseerlaubnis erteilen würden. Das eine war Kolumbien und das andere Argentinien.

Er überzeugte meine Eltern, daß dies die einzige Lösung für uns sein könnte. Nach vielem Hin und Her ging mein Vater auf das kolumbianische und argentinische Konsulat und beantragte die Auswanderung. Mir gab er die Erlaubnis, mit dem Jugendtransport nach Palästina zu gehen.

Genau zwei Jahre vergingen, und wir erhielten im März 1938 die Genehmigung, nach Kolumbien auszuwandern. Die Vorbereitungen zur Auswanderung begannen. Das elterliche Haus meiner Mutter wurde unter großen Schmerzen verkauft.

Am 27. August 1938 verließen wir Bornheim. Viele Tränen wurden geweint von Freunden meiner Eltern, die als Kinder zusammen aufgewachsen waren. Manche versuchten, meine Eltern davon zu überzeugen, daß sie in Bornheim bleiben sollten und nur die Kinder weggehen zu lassen. Aber alle guten Ratschläge konnten nichts mehr ändern. Am Tage des Abschieds von Bornheim und unserer hier verbrachten Kindheit begleiteten uns fast achtzig unserer Freunde bis an die Bahn und nahmen weinend Abschied von uns.

Es hat sich als richtig erwiesen, Deutschland zu verlassen. Denn wären wir hiergeblieben, hätte wahrscheinlich niemand von unserer Familie dieses Terror-Regime überlebt.

End of Max Cahn Family Collection